WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   A method for executing a query against a database on a data storage device
connected to a computer, the method comprising:

    modifying the query to replace one or more selected clauses with a false clause;

    executing the modified query with the false clause; and

    retrieving metadata from the result set obtained by executing the modified query.

2.   The method of claim 1, wherein the query comprises a SELECT statement.

3.   The method of claim 2, wherein the SELECT statement is not a SELECT
INTO statement.

4.   The method of claim 1, wherein the selected clauses comprise WHERE
clauses.

5.   The method of claim 1, wherein the selected clauses comprise GROUP BY
clauses.

6.   The method of claim 1, wherein modifying the query comprises:

    generating a list of modified queries, wherein each modified query has one or more

selected clauses replaced with a false clause; and

    executing each modified query until one executes successfully.

7.   The method of claim 6, wherein a query executes successfully if it executes
without an exception.

1   8.   The method of claim 1, wherein the metadata comprises column type data for

2   the result set.

1   9.   The method of claim 8, further comprising converting the column type data to

2   JAVA types.

1   10.   The method of claim 9, further comprising generating a SQLJ iterator with

2   parameters having the JAVA types.

1   11.   The method of claim 1, further comprising determining whether the query

2   requires a SQLJ iterator.

1   12.   An apparatus for executing a query, comprising:

2   a computer connected a data storage device that stores a database containing data;

3   one or more computer programs, performed by the computer, for modifying the query

4   to replace one or more selected clauses with a false clause, executing the modified query with

5   the false clause, and retrieving metadata from the result set obtained by executing the

6   modified query.

1   13.   The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the query comprises a SELECT statement.

1   14.   The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the SELECT statement is not a SELECT

2   INTO statement.

1   15.   The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the selected clauses comprise WHERE

2   clauses.

1   16.   The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the selected clauses comprise GROUP BY

2   clauses.

1   17.   The apparatus of claim 12, wherein modifying the query comprises:

2   generating a list of modified queries, wherein each modified query has one or more

3   selected clauses replaced with a false clause; and

4   executing each modified query until one executes successfully.

1   18.   The apparatus of claim 17, wherein a query executes successfully if it executes

2   without an exception.

1   19.   The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the metadata comprises column type data

2   for the result set.

1   20.   The apparatus of claim 19, further comprising converting the column type data

2   to JAVA types.

1   21.   The apparatus of claim 20, further comprising generating a SQLJ iterator with

2   parameters having the JAVA types.

1   22.   The apparatus of claim 12, further comprising determining whether the query

2   requires a SQLJ iterator.

1   23.   An article of manufacture comprising a computer program carrier readable by

2   computers and embodying one or more instructions executable by the computer for executing

3   a query against a database on a data storage device connected to the computer, comprising:

4   modifying the query to replace one or more selected clauses with a false clause;

5   executing the modified query with the false clause; and

6   retrieving metadata from the result set obtained by executing the modified query.

1   24.   The article of manufacture of claim 23, wherein the query comprises a

2   SELECT statement.

1   25.   The article of manufacture of claim 24, wherein the SELECT statement is not

2   a SELECT INTO statement.

1   26.   The article of manufacture of claim 23, wherein the selected clauses comprise

2   WHERE clauses.

1   27.   The article of manufacture of claim 23, wherein the selected clauses comprise

2   GROUP BY clauses.

1   28.   The article of manufacture of claim 23, wherein modifying the query

2   comprises:

3   generating a list of modified queries, wherein each modified query has one or more

4   selected clauses replaced with a false clause; and

5   executing each modified query until one executes successfully.

1   29.   The article of manufacture of claim 28, wherein a query executes successfully

2   if it executes without an exception.

1   30.   The article of manufacture of claim 23, wherein the metadata comprises

2   column type data for the result set.

1   31.   The article of manufacture of claim 23, further comprising converting the

2   column type data to JAVA types.

1   32.   The article of manufacture of claim 31. further comprising generating a SQLJ

2   iterator with parameters having the JAVA types.

1   33.   The article of manufacture of claim 23, further comprising determining

2   whether the query requires a SQLJ iterator.

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